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Lessons grounded in experience

Christine Pedigo Bartholomew, who has dedicated the last six years teaching research and writing at SUNY Buffalo Law School, has accepted a tenure-track position at the law school starting this fall. As an associate professor, her teaching load will include civil procedure – a topic aligned with her scholarly research interests. “I wanted to have an opportunity to continue with my scholarship and find more synergy between my research and teaching,” she says. “I’m deeply intrigued by some of the questions about civil procedure, which is an overlay for lots of areas of law. I am thrilled to be pursuing these questions while staying at UB.”

Bartholomew joined the Law School in 2006, teaching doctrinal subjects for three years before becoming part of what is now the LAWR (Legal Analysis, Research and Writing) program. The LAWR program, which was redesigned to better reflect changes in the realities of legal practice, and expanded to three semesters, has been satisfying for someone who values the written word. “I’m really proud of this program and my colleagues. LAWR places an emphasis on analytical reasoning and careful writing,” she says. “It’s not just learning to write in a certain way, it’s about being an editor and revising. Law has a huge emphasis on concise writing. It’s all Hemingway, all the time – in the best of ways.”

Bartholomew – who was honored for her teaching by the graduating class of 2014 with the Faculty Award – will now teach civil procedure, evidence, antitrust law and law firm management. She’s particularly excit-

ed about the latter, having managed a law office herself during the 10 years she was a practicing lawyer. “We have a lot of students who are going into a small practice or opening their own shop,” she says. “We need to help them understand how you design a practice – what areas have strong market demand, what billing practices to adopt, how to abide by ethics rules when a practice does work in other states or internationally.”

In her new position, Bartholomew hopes to draw from her extensive teaching and practice experience to bridge theory and practice. She argues that teaching the theory of law is inevitably bound up with the practical lessons enabling students to graduate ready to practice. In that respect, the move is a natural extension of the goals of the LAWR program. “You’re always looking at the law in the context of how it will be used in practice,” she says. “In a matter like deciding which court has jurisdiction over a case, you’re talking about access to justice.”

That real-world experience, she says, is helpful in the classroom, and



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– Christine Pedigo Bartholomew, a new associate professor

her scholarship helps keep her grounded in how lawyers are doing the job. “If I am proposing a change in the law, I want that change to be functional,” she says. “I call practitioners and say, ‘I’m making this argument – would this actually work?’ It matters to me that my scholarship speaks not only to other scholars, but also to judges and practitioners.”

Bartholomew, who has twin 7-year-old children, was born in Iran and grew up in California. After earning her J.D. from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, she specialized in litigation concerning antitrust and consumer law cases and served as the managing attorney of the San Francisco office of the D.C. law firm Finkelstein Thompson. Her areas of scholarship focus on civil procedure, evidence, and antitrust, and she has articles forthcoming in the *Fordham* and *Brooklyn Law Reviews*.